

Site Search Process and Selection

General Statutes § 16-50l (e) requires T-Mobile to provide the Town with a technical report considering, *inter alia*, “the site selection process.” When filing its application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need with the Connecticut Siting Council, T-Mobile must include a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 16-50j-74(j). In accordance with these requirements, this Technical Report details the description of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Facility.

As a wireless carrier licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, T-Mobile investigates prospective sites in an area based upon the needs of its wireless infrastructure. T-Mobile chooses a target area central to the area in which it has identified coverage and/or capacity needs after extensive research of that particular area. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, likely address the identified problem. T-Mobile’s goal is to locate sites that will remedy coverage or capacity issues, and cause the least environmental impact.

T-Mobile is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and it does not pursue development of a new facility where an acceptable existing structure can be found. In general, T-Mobile’s site acquisition personnel study the area in and near the search area to determine whether any suitable structure exists. If T-Mobile cannot find a structure with appropriate height and structural capabilities, it turns to industrial and commercial areas or individual parcels that have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics. The list of potential locations is limited by the willingness of property owners to make their properties available for a telecommunications facility. Radio frequency engineers study potentially suitable and available locations to determine whether those locations will meet the technical requirements for a telecommunications facility. The list of possible alternative sites may be further narrowed by T-Mobile’s analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits. The weight given to relevant factors varies for each search, depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

On October 26, 2004, in Docket No. 243, the Council approved an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility, with a 120 foot monopole, at 208 Valley Road, New Canaan, Connecticut (“Property”). The Council determined that the facility proposed in 2004 addressed a demonstrated coverage need without adversely impacting the community or the environment.

In 2004, the Council also concluded that there were no existing towers, transmission line structures or other suitable structures in the area of New Canaan subject of this site search. T-Mobile’s subsequent site search confirmed the Council’s

earlier ruling. The nearest towers and suitable structures are already in use by T-Mobile. Moreover, any other existing towers are too far from the target area to provide coverage specifically to the target area. Finally, there are no other suitable areas of commercial or industrial use in or near the target area.

Based upon T-Mobile's previous site search, the only feasible alternative was 270 Valley Road (Map 44 / Bock 108 / Lot 21), which abuts the Property to the north. The First Taxing District of Norwalk owns the parcel. T-Mobile initially selected this parcel in 2004 since the Property was not available for lease. The Town and those abutters that intervened in the proceedings in 2004 agreed that the Property was a better alternative than this parcel.

T-Mobile's investigation confirms the Council's previous ruling that the Property is the best site for T-Mobile's proposed telecommunications facility with a 120 foot monopole tower ("Facility"). The Property is a developed parcel. There are no wetlands on or within the immediate vicinity of the site of the proposed Facility. The nearest wetland system is approximately 400 feet to the northeast. Additionally, views of the proposed Facility would be limited by the existing mature vegetation in the area, the relatively low height of the tower and the stealth design of the tower.

The Council's previous ruling regarding need remains true. The proposed Facility is necessary to enhance wireless service availability to existing and future T-Mobile wireless device users. The intended coverage area of the Facility includes Valley Road and Silvermine Road, just east of Route 123, as well as the surrounding areas. Enhanced coverage provided by the Facility would allow T-Mobile subscribers to use voice and data services reliably as well as to connect to Emergency 911 services.